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SONIC
THE HEDGEHOG
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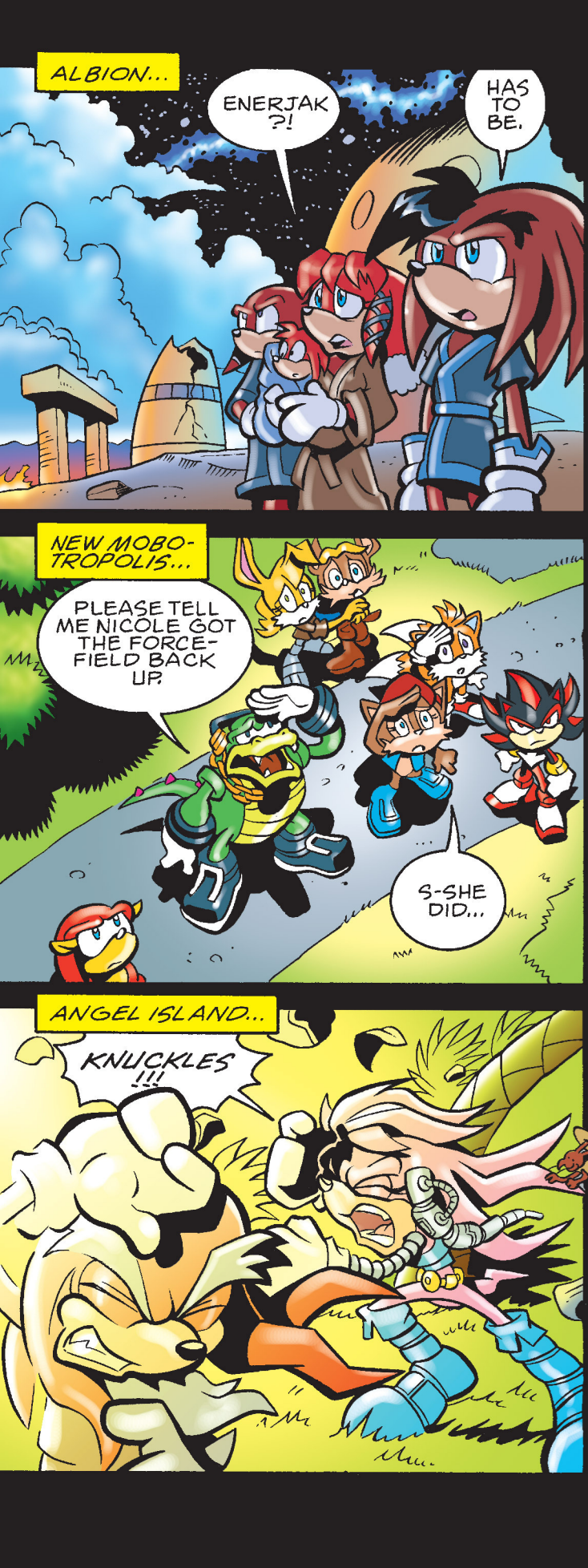
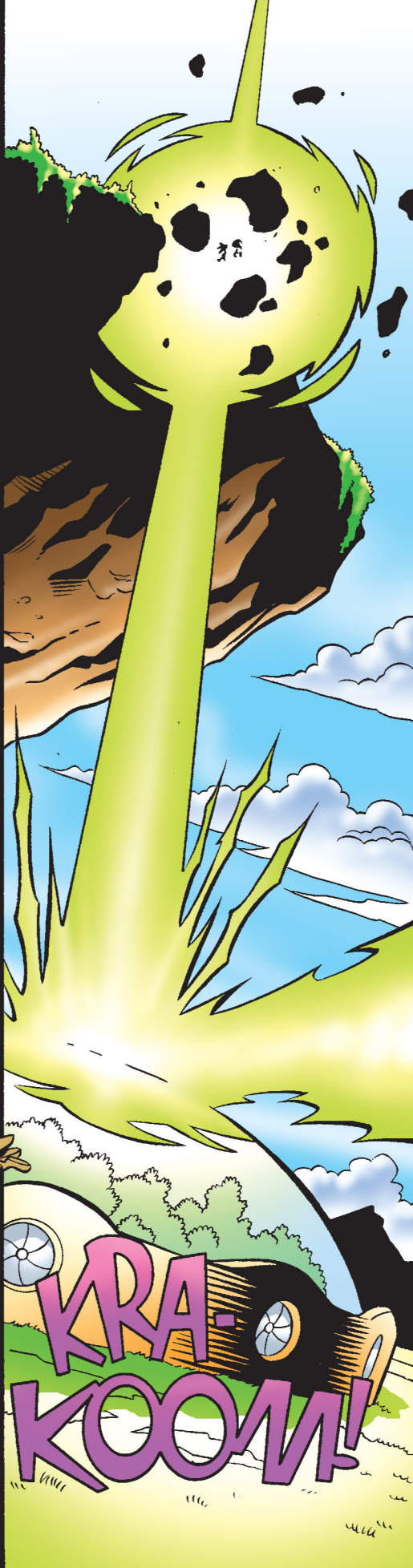

ALBION...
ENERJAK ?!
HAS TO BE.
NEW MOBO-TROPOLIS...
PLEASE TELL ME NICOLE GOT THE FORCE-FIELD BACK UP.
S-SHE DID...
ANGEL ISLAND...
KNUCKLES !!!


KRA-KOOM!

Writer: IAN FLYNN • Pencils: TRACY YARDLEY! • Inks: JIM AMASH • Colors: JASON JENSEN • Letters: JOHN WORKMAN
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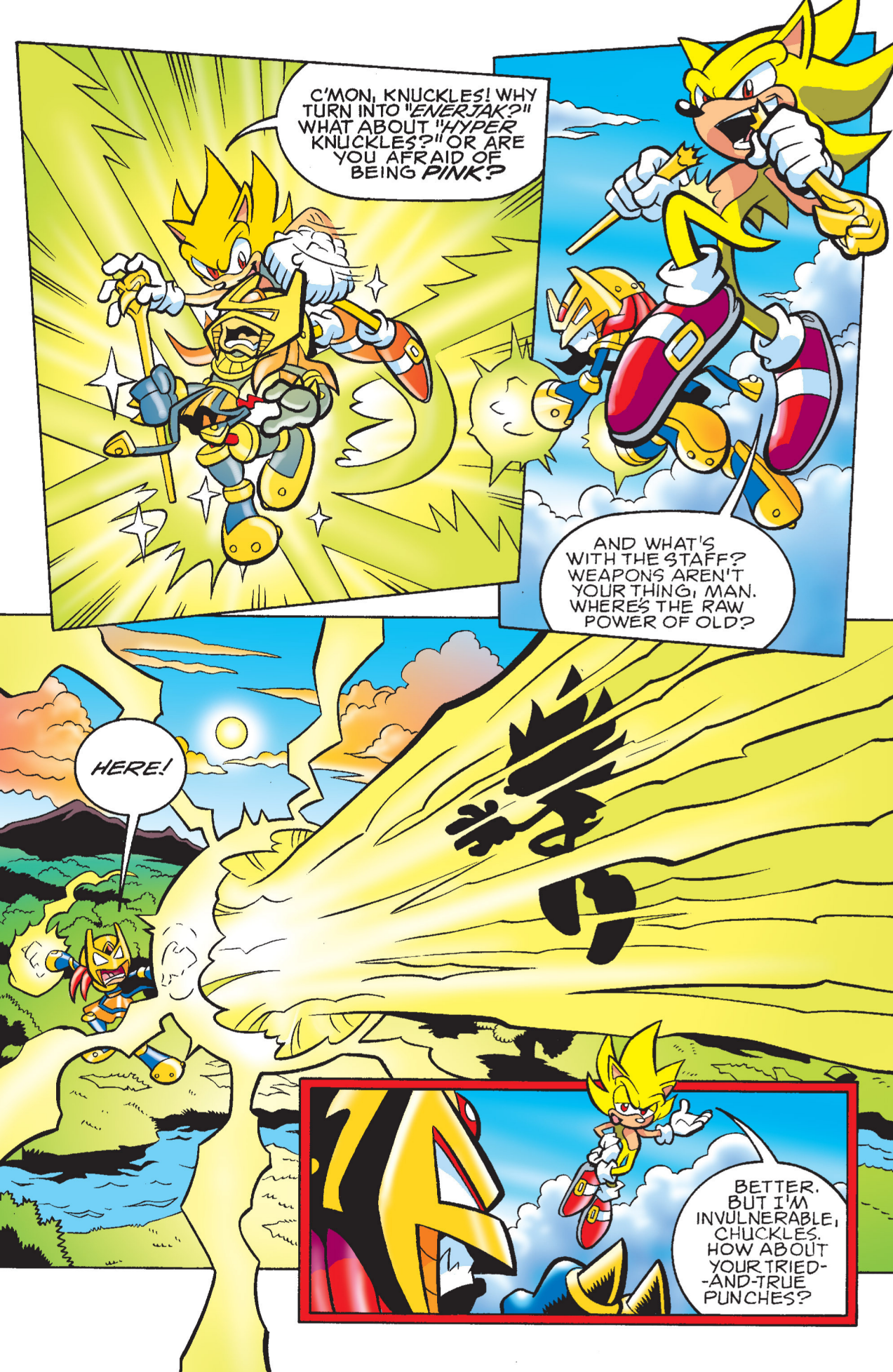
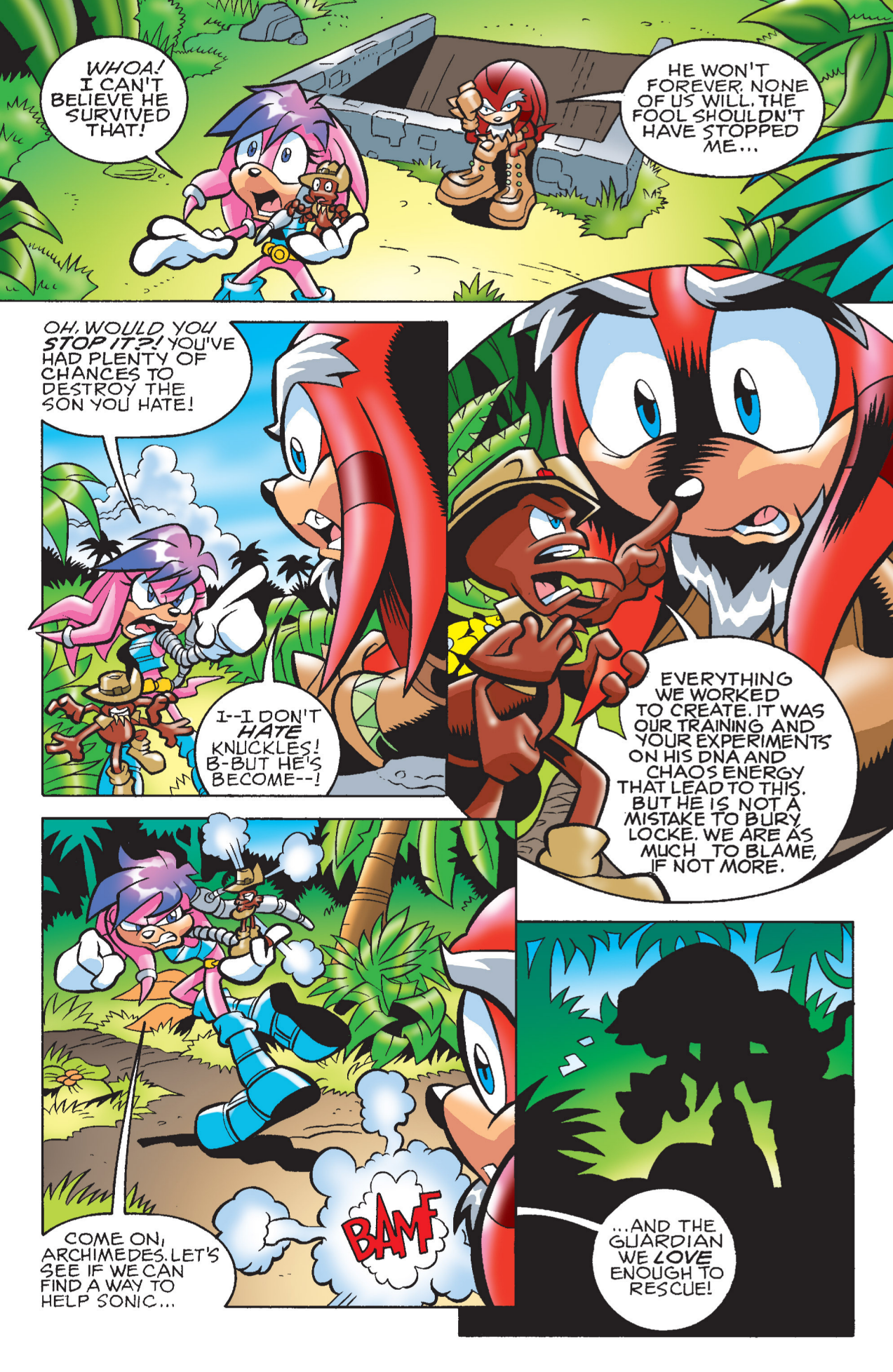
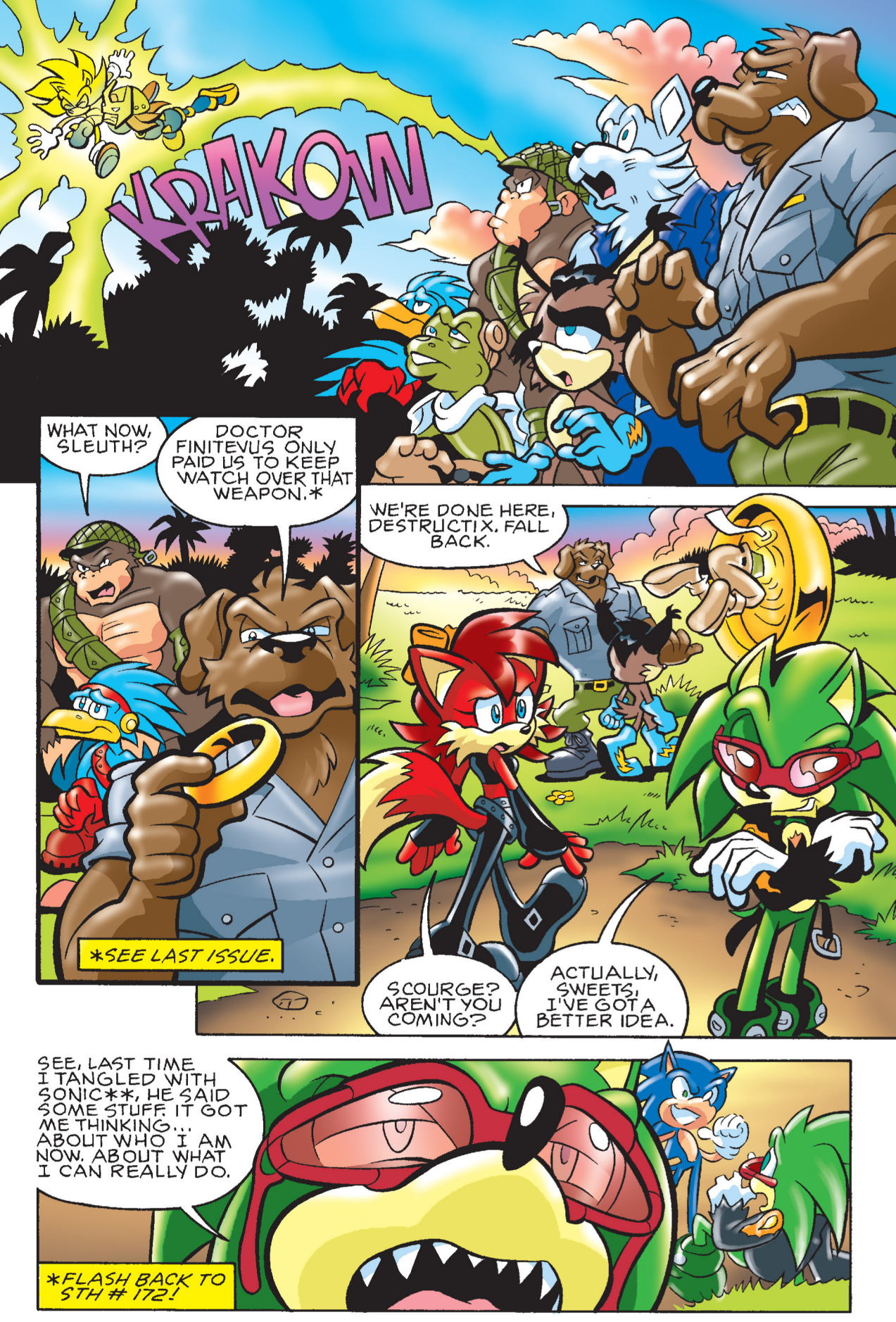
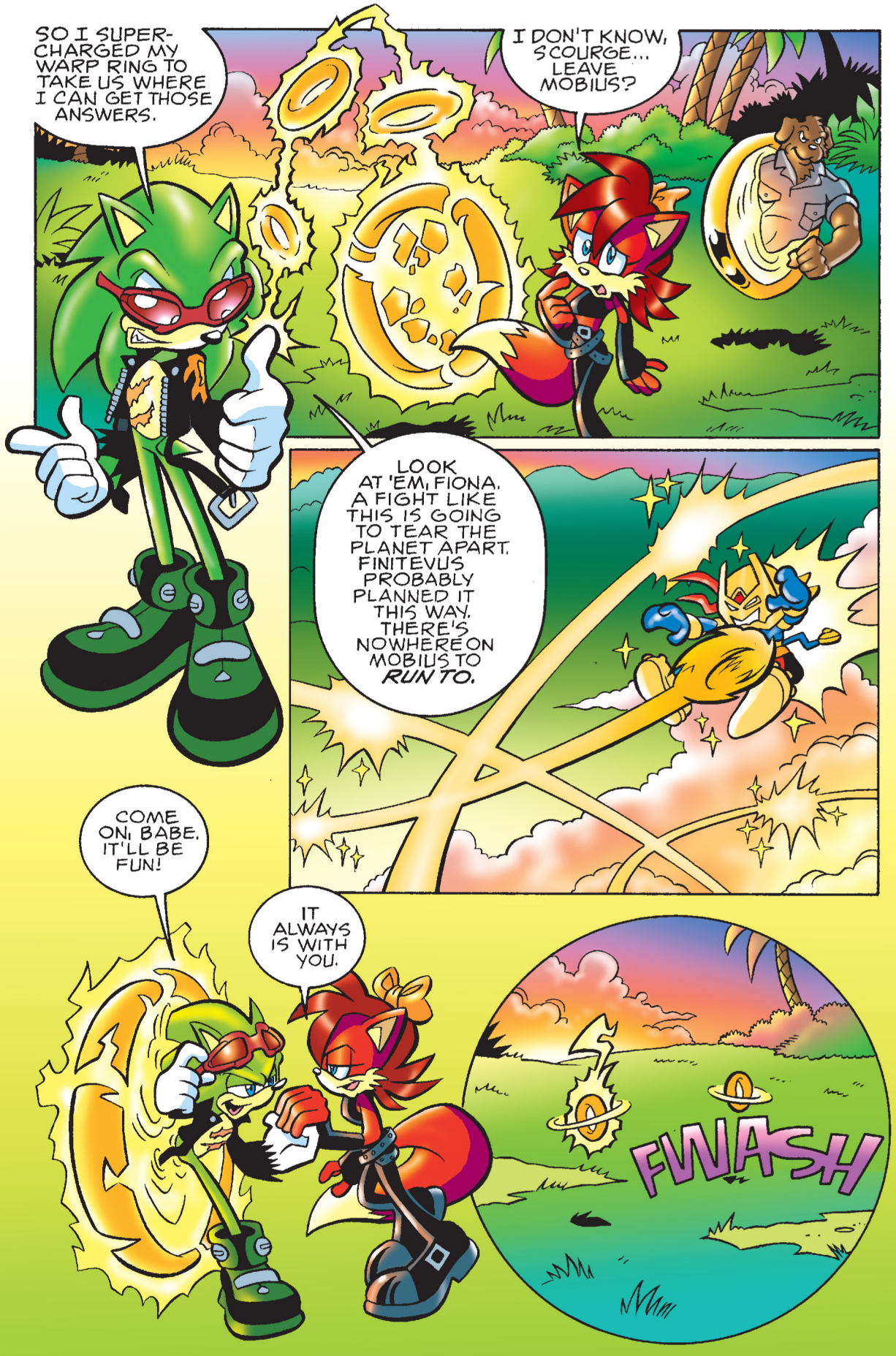
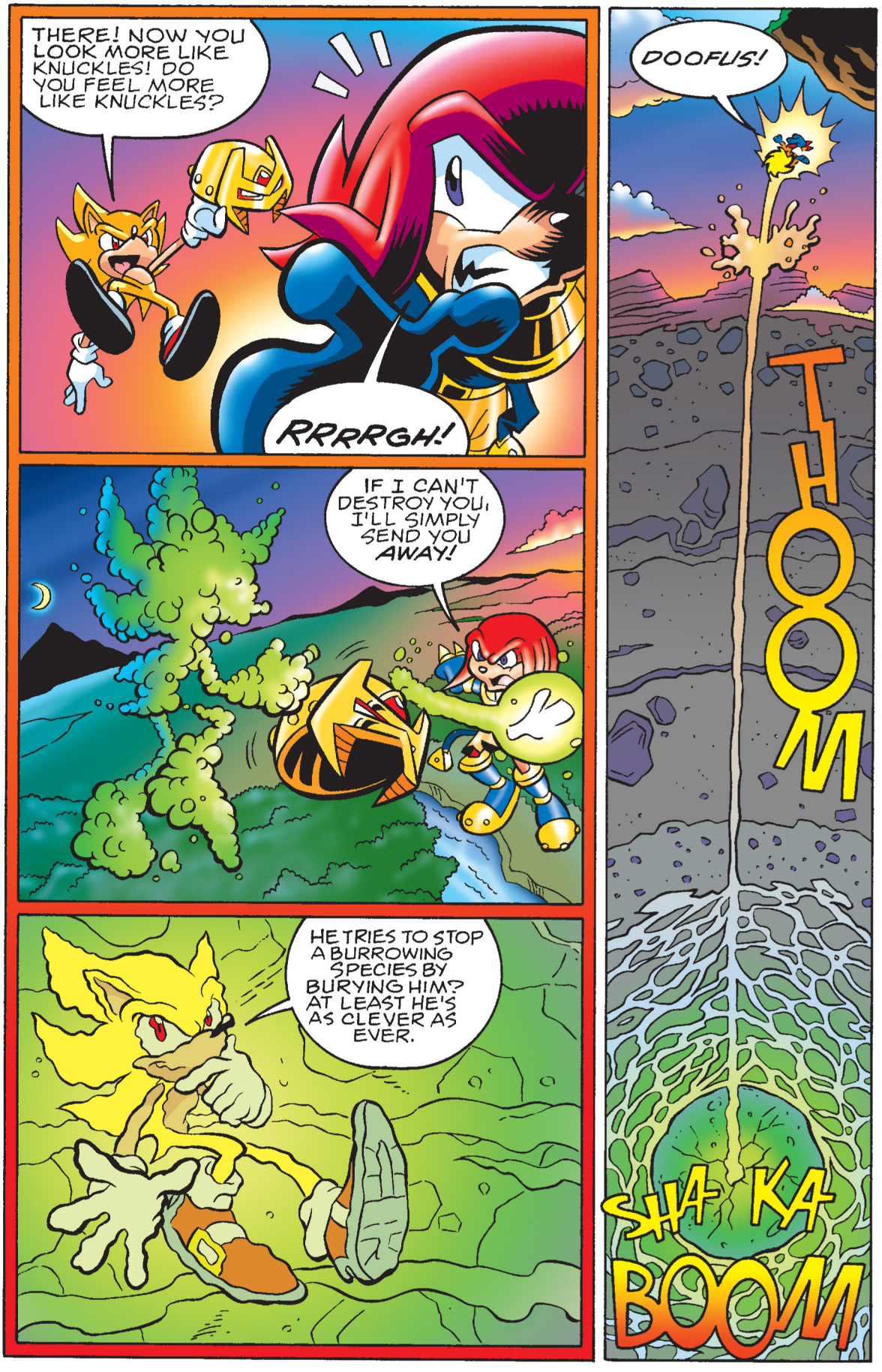
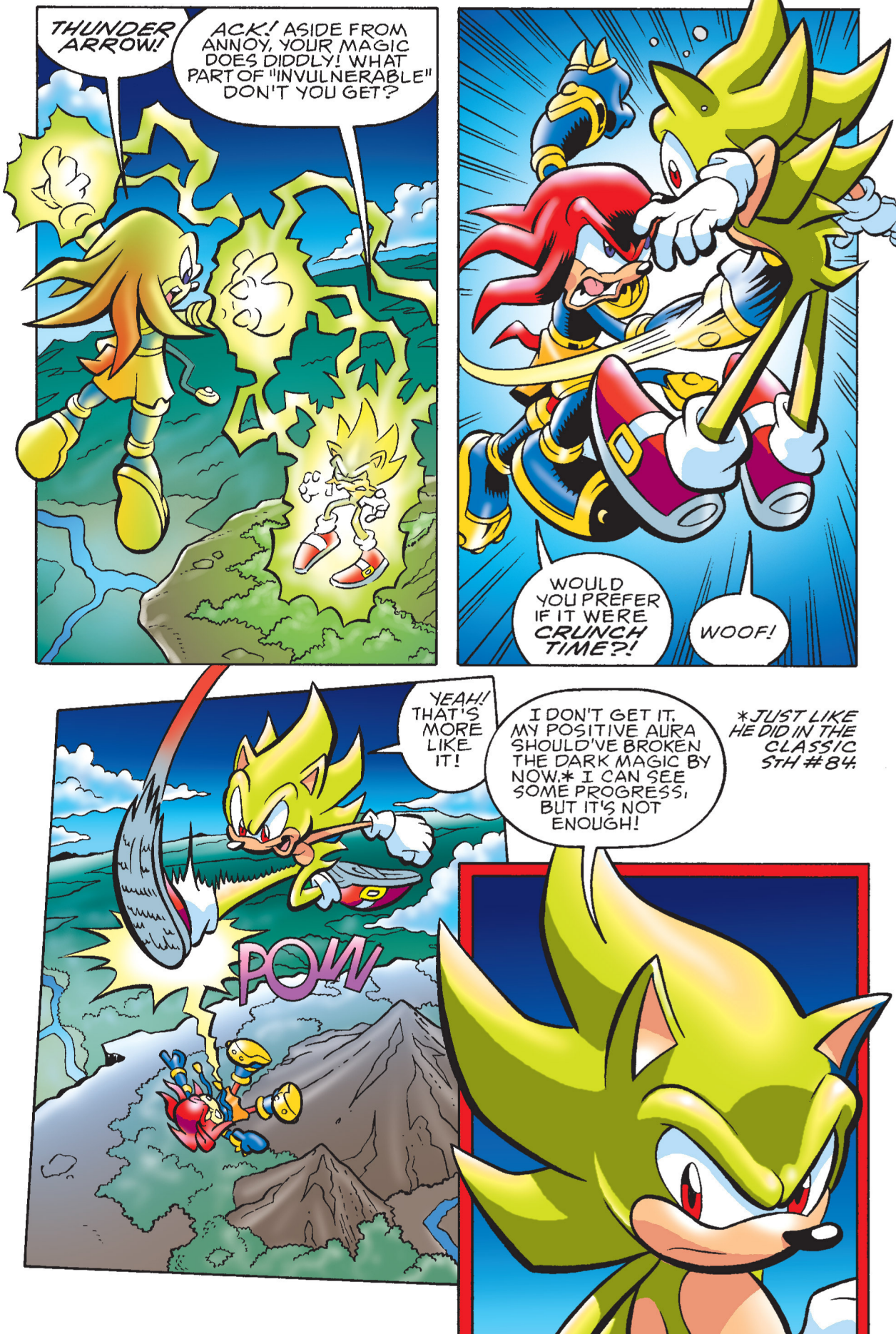

C'MON, KNUCKLES! WHY TURN INTO "ENERJAK?" WHAT ABOUT "HYPER KNUCKLES?" OR ARE YOU AFRAID OF BEING PINK?
AND WHAT'S WITH THE STAFF? WEAPONS AREN'T YOUR THING, MAN. WHERE'S THE RAW POWER OF OLD?
HERE!
BETTER. BUT I'M INVULNERABLE, CHUCKLES. HOW ABOUT YOUR TRIED--AND-TRUE PUNCHES?

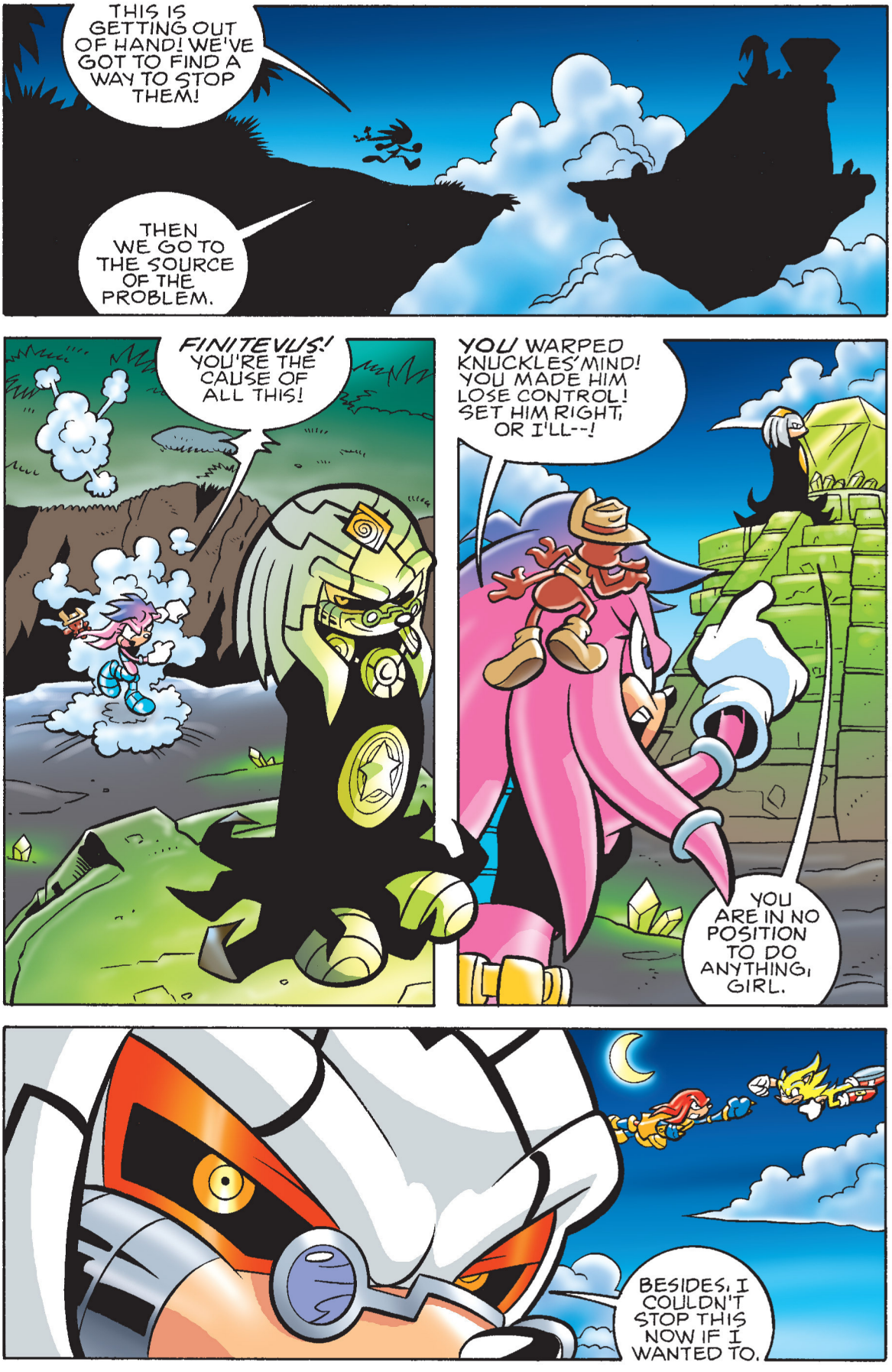

WHOA! I CAN'T BELIEVE HE SURVIVED THAT!
HE WON'T FOREVER. NONE OF US WILL. THE FOOL SHOULDN'T HAVE STOPPED ME...
OH, WOULD YOU STOP IT?! YOU'VE HAD PLENTY OF CHANCES TO DESTROY THE SON YOU HATE!
I--I DON'T HATE KNUCKLES! B-BUT HE'S BECOME--!
EVERYTHING WE WORKED TO CREATE. IT WAS OUR TRAINING AND YOUR EXPERIMENTS ON HIS DNA AND CHAOS ENERGY THAT LEAD TO THIS. BUT HE IS NOT A MISTAKE TO BURY, LOCKE. WE ARE AS MUCH TO BLAME, IF NOT MORE.
BAMF
COME ON, ARCHIMEDES. LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIND A WAY TO HELP SONIC...
...AND THE GUARDIAN WE LOVE ENOUGH TO RESCUE!

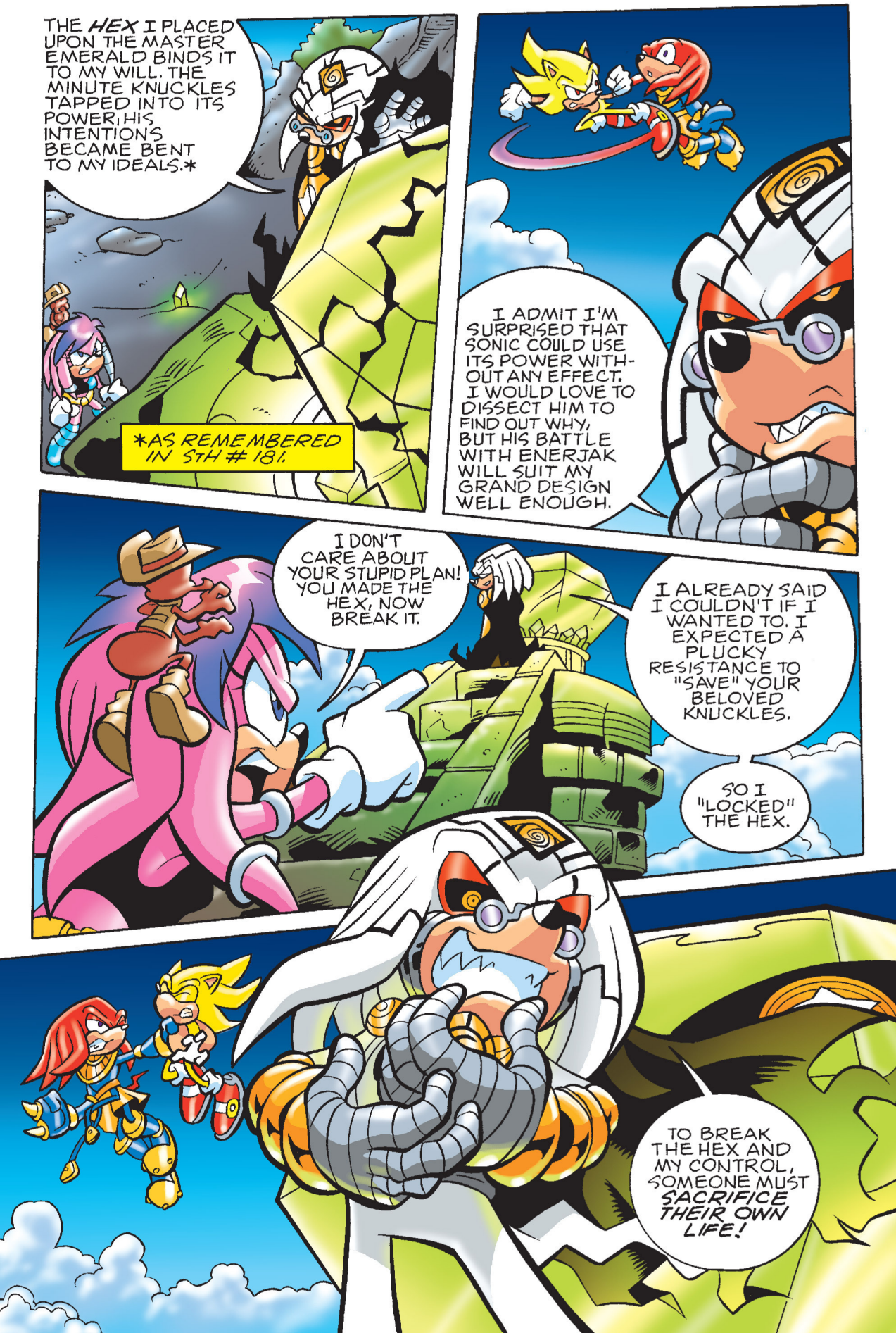

KRAKOW
WHAT NOW, SLEUTH?
DOCTOR FINITEVUS ONLY PAID US TO KEEP WATCH OVER THAT WEAPON.*
*SEE LAST ISSUE.
WE'RE DONE HERE, DESTRUCTIX. FALL BACK.
SCOURGE? AREN'T YOU COMING?
ACTUALLY, SWEETS, I'VE GOT A BETTER IDEA.
SEE, LAST TIME I TANGLED WITH SONIC**, HE SAID SOME STUFF. IT GOT ME THINKING... ABOUT WHO I AM NOW. ABOUT WHAT I CAN REALLY DO.
*FLASH BACK TO STH # 172!

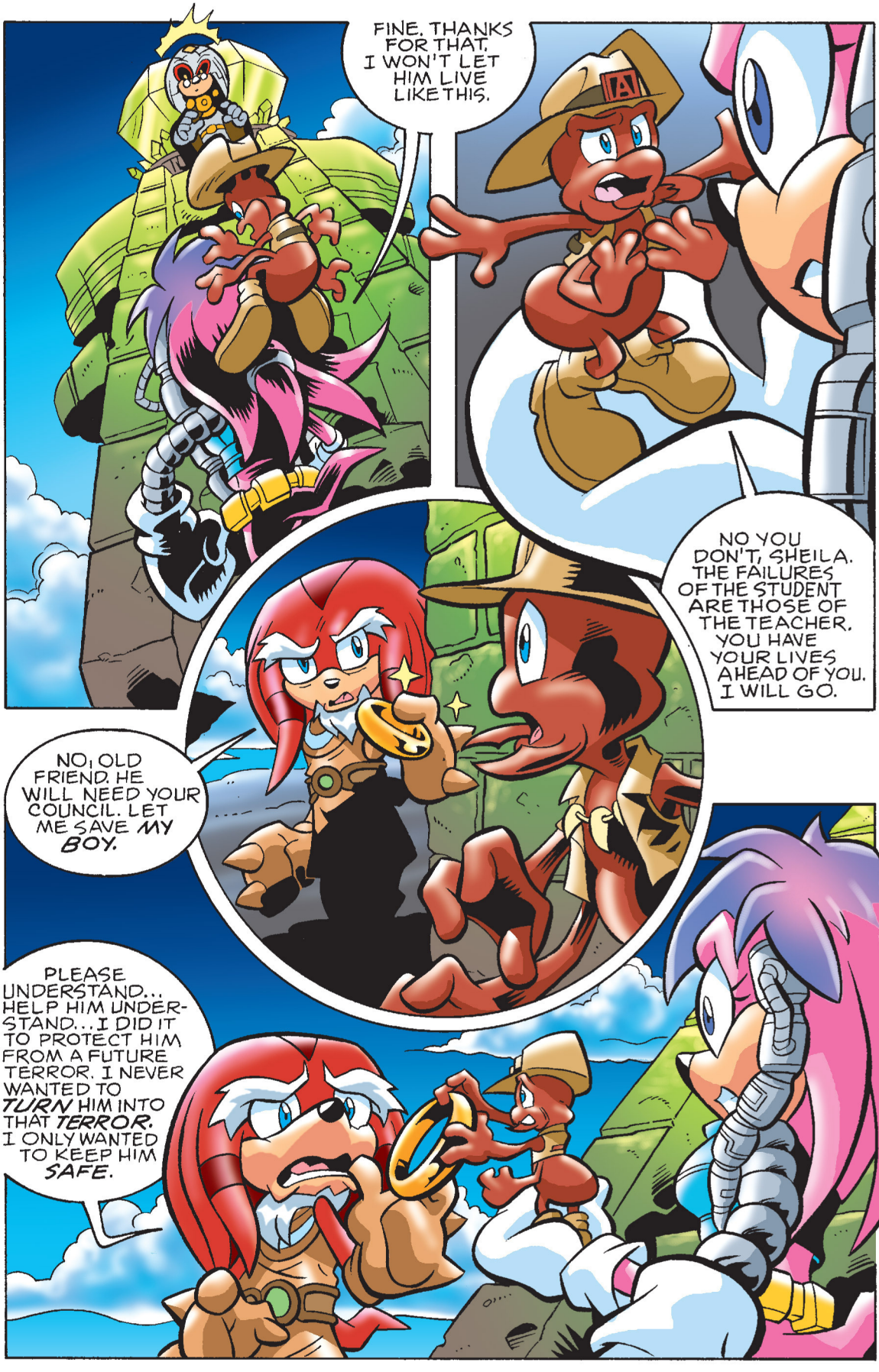

SO I SUPER-CHARGED MY WARP RING TO TAKE US WHERE I CAN GET THOSE ANSWERS.
I DON'T KNOW, SCOURGE... LEAVE MOBIUS?
LOOK AT 'EM, FIONA. A FIGHT LIKE THIS IS GOING TO TEAR THE PLANET APART. FINITEVUS PROBABLY PLANNED IT THIS WAY. THERE'S NOWHERE ON MOBIUS TO *RUN TO.*
COME ON, BABE. IT'LL BE FUN!
IT ALWAYS IS WITH YOU.
FWASH

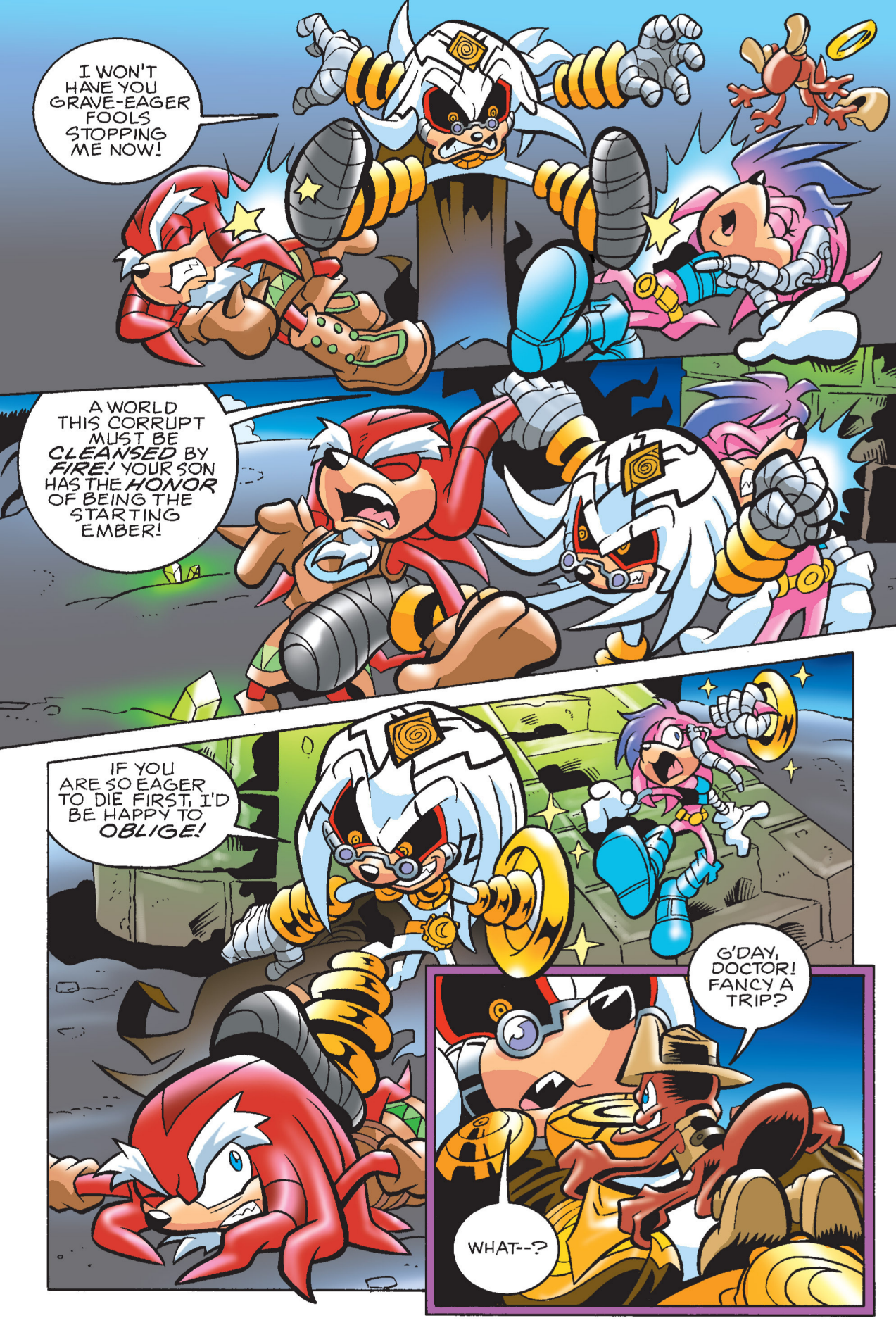

THERE! NOW YOU LOOK MORE LIKE KNUCKLES! DO YOU FEEL MORE LIKE KNUCKLES?
RRRRGH!
IF I CAN'T DESTROY YOU, I'LL SIMPLY SEND YOU AWAY!
HE TRIES TO STOP A BURROWING SPECIES BY BURYING HIM? AT LEAST HE'S AS CLEVER AS EVER.
DOOFUS!
THOOM
SHA KA BOOM

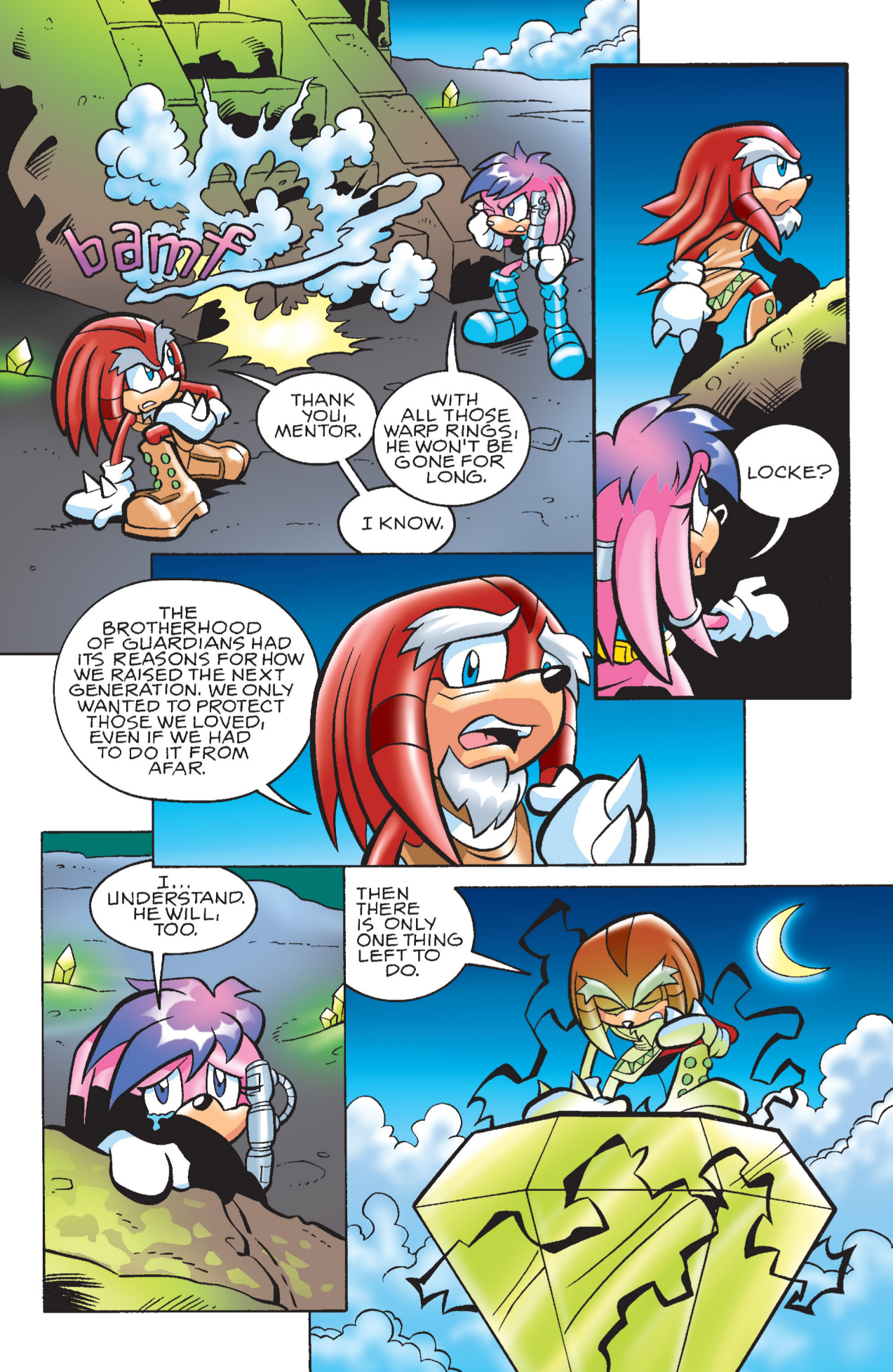

THUNDER ARROW!
ACK! ASIDE FROM ANNOY, YOUR MAGIC DOES DIDDLY! WHAT PART OF "INVULNERABLE" DON'T YOU GET?
WOULD YOU PREFER IF IT WERE CRUNCH TIME?!
WOOF!
YEAH! THAT'S MORE LIKE IT!
I DON'T GET IT. MY POSITIVE AURA SHOULD'VE BROKEN THE DARK MAGIC BY NOW.* I CAN SEE SOME PROGRESS, BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH!
POW
*JUST LIKE HE DID IN THE CLASSIC STH #84.


THIS IS GETTING OUT OF HAND! WE'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO STOP THEM!
THEN WE GO TO THE SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM.
FINITEVUS! YOU'RE THE CAUSE OF ALL THIS!
YOU WARPED KNUCKLES' MIND! YOU MADE HIM LOSE CONTROL! SET HIM RIGHT, OR I'LL--!
YOU ARE IN NO POSITION TO DO ANYTHING, GIRL.
BESIDES, I COULDN'T STOP THIS NOW IF I WANTED TO.


THE HEX I PLACED UPON THE MASTER EMERALD BINDS IT TO MY WILL. THE MINUTE KNUCKLES TAPPED INTO ITS POWER, HIS INTENTIONS BECAME BENT TO MY IDEALS.*
*AS REMEMBERED IN STH # 181.
I ADMIT I'M SURPRISED THAT SONIC COULD USE ITS POWER WITHOUT ANY EFFECT. I WOULD LOVE TO DISSECT HIM TO FIND OUT WHY, BUT HIS BATTLE WITH ENERJAK WILL SUIT MY GRAND DESIGN WELL ENOUGH.
I DON'T CARE ABOUT YOUR STUPID PLAN! YOU MADE THE HEX, NOW BREAK IT.
I ALREADY SAID I COULDN'T IF I WANTED TO. I EXPECTED A PLUCKY RESISTANCE TO "SAVE" YOUR BELOVED KNUCKLES.
SO I "LOCKED" THE HEX.
TO BREAK THE HEX AND MY CONTROL, SOMEONE MUST SACRIFICE THEIR OWN LIFE!


FINE. THANKS FOR THAT. I WON'T LET HIM LIVE LIKE THIS.
NO YOU DON'T, SHEILA. THE FAILURES OF THE STUDENT ARE THOSE OF THE TEACHER. YOU HAVE YOUR LIVES AHEAD OF YOU. I WILL GO.
NO, OLD FRIEND. HE WILL NEED YOUR COUNCIL. LET ME SAVE MY BOY.
PLEASE UNDERSTAND... HELP HIM UNDERSTAND... I DID IT TO PROTECT HIM FROM A FUTURE TERROR. I NEVER WANTED TO TURN HIM INTO THAT TERROR. I ONLY WANTED TO KEEP HIM SAFE.


I WON'T HAVE YOU GRAVE-EAGER FOOLS STOPPING ME NOW!
A WORLD THIS CORRUPT MUST BE CLEANSED BY FIRE! YOUR SON HAS THE HONOR OF BEING THE STARTING EMBER!
IF YOU ARE SO EAGER TO DIE FIRST, I'D BE HAPPY TO OBLIGE!
G'DAY, DOCTOR! FANCY A TRIP?
WHAT--?

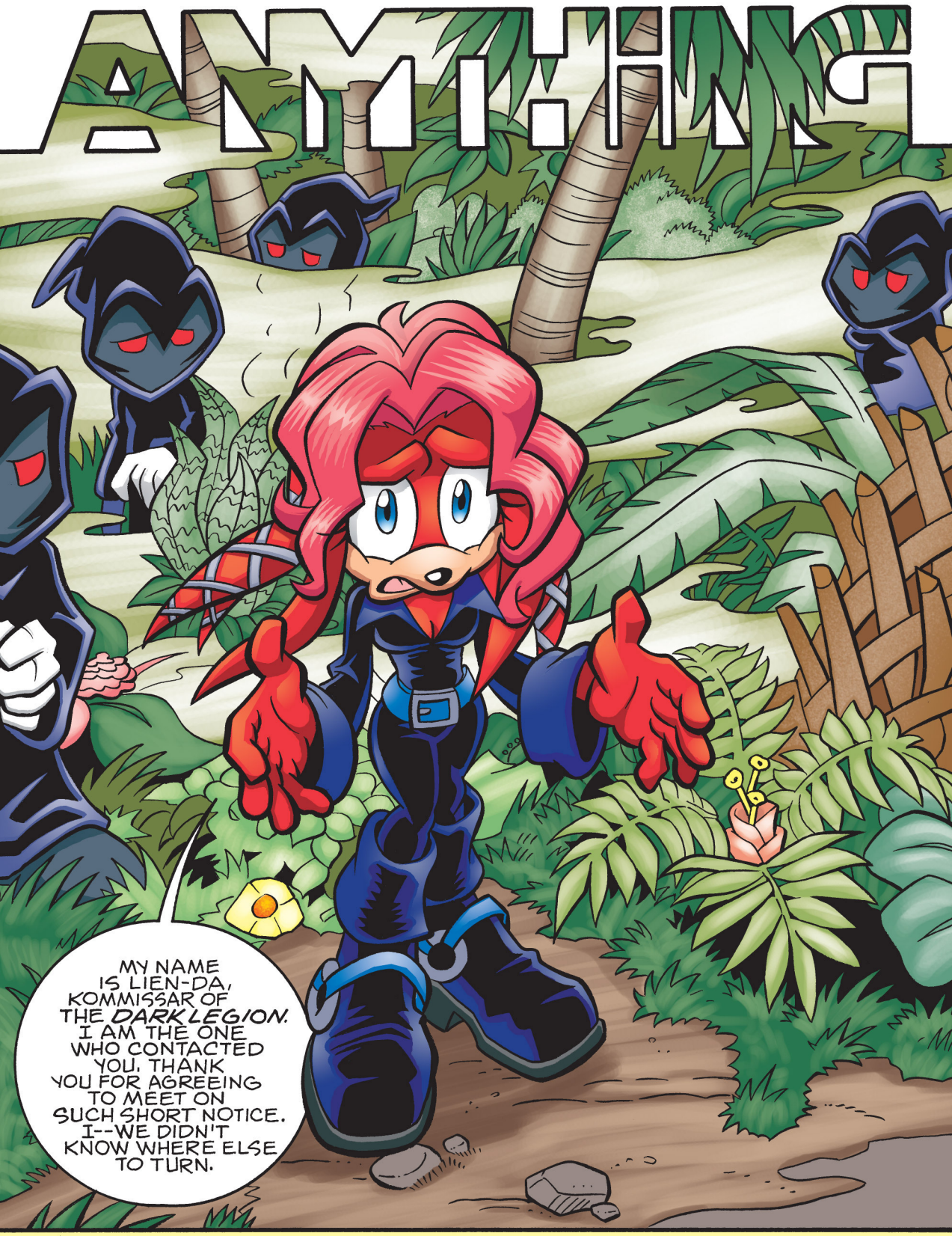

bamf
THANK YOU, MENTOR.
WITH ALL THOSE WARP RINGS, HE WON'T BE GONE FOR LONG.
I KNOW.
LOCKE?
THE BROTHERHOOD OF GUARDIANS HAD ITS REASONS FOR HOW WE RAISED THE NEXT GENERATION. WE ONLY WANTED TO PROTECT THOSE WE LOVED, EVEN IF WE HAD TO DO IT FROM AFAR.
I... UNDERSTAND. HE WILL, TOO.
THEN THERE IS ONLY ONE THING LEFT TO DO.

THE SERVERS ARE THE SEVEN CHAOS...
CHAOS IS POWER, ENRICHED BY THE HEART...
RELEASE MY BOY! GIVE HIM HIS OWN LIFE TO LEAD!
EASY, KNUX. I'VE GOT YOU.

EASY DOES IT, BUD.
JULIE-SU! WHERE'S DAD? I THOUGHT I HEARD HIM...
KNUCKLES...
I'M SO SORRY. THERE WAS NO OTHER WAY! THINGS MOVED TOO FAST, AND-AND-AND HE JUST WENT--!
SLOW DOWN! "HE WENT?" YOU MEAN DAD--?
RAAAARGH!
THE OLD FOOL DID IT! ALL THAT RESEARCH AND CASTING FOR NOTHING! AT THIS RATE, HIS BRAT WILL REMEMBER SOME OF THIS FARCE...
I REMEMBER...

--EVERYTHING!
HRK!
GET BACK UP HERE.
ANOTHER TIME, PERHAPS.

...KNUCKLES? UM...
LET'S GO BACK DOWN TO THE CITY. LET EVERYONE KNOW YOU'RE OKAY.
NO.
YOU GO BACK IF YOU WANT. I'M NEVER MAKING THAT MISTAKE AGAIN.
I AM THE LAST GUARDIAN OF ANGEL ISLAND. I WILL PROTECT THE MASTER EMERALD. AND I WILL DO IT ALONE IF I HAVE TO.
SAY IT ISN'T SO, KNUCKLES!
WILL OUR RED HERO CHANGE HIS MIND? ENERJAK HAS BEEN VANQUISHED, BUT WHAT NEW EVIL AWAITS? TURN THE PAGE TO FIND OUT!


AMAZING
MY NAME IS LIEN-DA, KOMMISSAR OF THE DARK LEGION. I AM THE ONE WHO CONTACTED YOU. THANK YOU FOR AGREEING TO MEET ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE. I--WE DIDN'T KNOW WHERE ELSE TO TURN.

Writer: IAN FLYNN • Pencils: TRACY YARDLEY!
Inks: JIM AMASH • Letters: JOHN WORKMAN
Colors: STINGRAY GRAFIK WURKS

IT HASN'T BEEN A DAY SINCE ENERJAK RAVAGED MY PEOPLE.* HE USED HIS MAGIC TO REMOVE ALL OUR CYBERNETICS AND MAKE US COMPLETELY ...FLESH.
*AT THE BEGINNING OF THE EPIC IN STH #181.
HUNDREDS OF YEARS AGO, OUR ANCESTORS WERE FORCED INTO HIDING FOR OUR DEVOTION TO THE TECHNOLOGY THAT GAVE US OUR SUPREMACY.
WE WERE DRIVEN INTO THE DARKNESS JUST SO WE COULD LAY CLAIM TO WHAT WAS RIGHTFULLY OURS.
WE ORGANIZED INTO A LEGION OF JUSTICE. WE FOUGHT AGAINST THE OPPRESSORS AND THEIR CHAMPION-- THE GUARDIAN...
...AND WE WERE EXILED TO ANOTHER ZONE. OUT OF SYNCH WITH THE NORMAL FLOW OF TIME, WE STRUGGLED TO SURVIVE IN THE BARREN VOID.
ONLY THROUGH THE TECHNOLOGY THAT WAS BANISHED DID WE SCROUNGE A MEAGER LIFE AND MOUNT ATTACKS TO RECLAIM A SMALL HOLD IN OUR GREEN, WARM ISLAND.

OUR WAY OF LIFE HAS BEEN STOLEN FROM US. THE DARK LEGION WILL DO ANYTHING TO RECLAIM OUR BIRTHRIGHT.
AND I WILL SEE TO IT THAT THEY'RE LOYAL TO YOU. JUST MAKE ME GRANDMASTER OF THE LEGION. THEY'LL FOLLOW ME, AND I WILL FOLLOW YOU.
MY TIME AS LEADER IS DUE. MY LATE BROTHER TOOK COMMAND WHEN OUR FATHER... PASSED.
WHEN GREAT-GREAT-GRANDFATHER DIMITRI RETURNED, HE ASSUMED COMMAND UNTIL HE RAN.
WE HAVE SIMILAR EXPECTATIONS IN OBEDIENCE AND DISCIPLINE. IF ENERJAK GOT TO YOU, YOU'LL NEED NEW GROUND FORCES. WHAT DO YOU SAY?
I SAY--

--WELCOME TO THE EGGMAN EMPIRE!
RIGHT THIS WAY, MY NEW DARK EGG LEGION! I'LL SEE TO IT YOU WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT THOSE NASTY, SQUISHY INSIDES!
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS, KOMMISSAR?
IT WILL BE WORTH IT. TRUST ME. AND IT'S "GRANDMASTER" NOW.
NO, ACTUALLY. THAT POSITION'S ALREADY BEEN FILLED.
WHAT?! BY WHO?!

VILLAINS HAVE UNITED!
What does this mean for Sonic and Knuckles?
Or is the next threat even WORSE?
Find out next month in SONIC THE HEDGEHOG #185!
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